

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 12, 2023

The Honorable William Burns
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
100 Colonial Farm Rd
McClean, VA 22101

The Honorable Daniel Kritenbrink
Assistant Secretary for East Asian Affairs
Department of State
2201 C St., NW
Washington, DC 20520

CC: Secretary Blinken

Director Burns and Assistant Secretary Kritenbrink,

We write to request information regarding your recent visits to the People's Republic of China (PRC), and to request a classified briefing for members of relevant committees. Director Burns: according to reports, last month you "met with Chinese counterparts and emphasized the importance of maintaining open lines of communication in intelligence channels."¹ Moreover, A/S Daniel Kritenbrink, you also recently visited the PRC to mitigate rising tensions².

In the past five years, U.S. government communication with our PRC counterparts have been fraught. At the end of May, the PRC rejected Defense Secretary Austin's request to meet. Official DoD spokespersons have said that since 2021, China has "declined or failed to respond to over a dozen requests from the Department of Defense for key leader engagements, multiple requests for standing dialogues, and nearly ten working-level engagements." Amongst these rejections were our Defense Department officials' attempts to manage tensions when the spy balloon was in U.S. airspace in February. We understand the need to keep lines of communication open to prevent miscommunication and unnecessary escalation, but as Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on the Indo Pacific, respectively, we ask to be regularly briefed on these efforts, especially given the PRC's recent escalations with its deployment of a spy balloon in U.S. airspace and the discovery of a CCP intelligence station in Cuba.

We respectfully request a classified briefing from both the Central Intelligence Agency and the Department of State within 30 days upon receipt of this letter.

¹ <https://www.cnn.com/2023/06/02/politics/us-china-meeting/index.html>

² <https://apnews.com/article/china-us-diplomats-meeting-f5b6ed8fd83f79f142eaa3e5da980482>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'YK', with a horizontal line underneath.

Young Kim
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on the Indo Pacific

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ami Bera', with a horizontal line underneath.

Ami Bera, M.D.
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Indo Pacific